

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 21471 221507Z
ACTION EUR-12

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T BONN 21471

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR NATO MNUC GW
SUBJECT: FRG-NATO MATTERS

REF: BONN 18556

SUMMARY. A SENIOR GERMAN GENERAL HAS TOLD US THAT THE
FRG WILL NO LONGER USE THE PHRASE "EURO-STRATEGIC
THREAT" BUT IS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH
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SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 21471 221507Z

THE SS-X-20. END SUMMARY.

1. MAJOR GENERAL BRANDT, CHIEF OF THE FRG DEFENSE
MINISTRY POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, HAS TOLD THE POLITICAL
COUNSELOR THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WILL ABANDON USE
OF THE PHRASE "THE EURO-STRAGETIC THREAT" BECAUSE THE

PHRASE WAS WIDELY MISINTERPRETED. HE SAID THAT THE GERMANS HAD ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED THE CONCEPT IN ORDER TO POINT TO A NEED FOR ALLIANCE THINKING ABOUT THE THREAT WHICH THE SS-X-20 MISSILES WOULD PRESENT. HOWEVER, GERMAN PRESENTATION OF THE ISSUE HAD APPARENTLY CONVEYED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GERMANS WERE THINKING OF BALANCING THIS THREAT BY PURELY EUROPEAN MEANS. THAT WAS NEVER THEIR INTENT.

2. BRANDT SAID THAT DROPPING THE PHRASE WOULD NOT REMOVE THE PROBLEM. UNTIL NOW, SOVIET MISSILES IN EASTERN EUROPE COULD BE SYSTEMATICALLY TARGETED BY WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO SACEUR AND RELATED ALLIED RESOURCES. THE SS-X-20, HOWEVER, POSED AN ENTIRELY NEW PROBLEM BECAUSE OF ITS MOBILITY. IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE ALLIANCE TO RETHINK SOME OF ITS STRATEGY IN ORDER TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENT.

3. BRANDT SAID THAT THE GERMANS WERE STUDYING SOME OF THE STEPS THAT COULD BE TAKEN. THEY DID NOT YET KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE NEW MISSILE -- IN PARTICULAR WHETHER IT WAS SITE-DEPENDENT -- TO EVOLVE A CLEAR STRATEGY. OBVIOUSLY, MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON OUR KNOWLEDGE OF ITS CHARACTERISTICS. HOWEVER, THE GERMANS BELIEVED IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO BEGIN PLANNING SOON. THEY HOPED TO HAVE SOME IDEAS AVAILABLE FOR NATO-WIDE CONSULTATIONS BEFORE THE SUMMER.

4. BRANDT REPEATED SOMETHING WE HAVE HEARD FROM OTHER
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 21471 221507Z

GERMAN DEFENSE OFFICIALS: A RECOLLECTION OF THE 1956 SUEZ CRISIS WHEN KHRUSHCHEV THREATENED FRANCE AND ENGLAND WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS. BRANDT SAID THE GERMANS FEARED THAT THE NEW WEAPON COULD GIVE THE SOVIETS A SIMILAR POLITICAL PRESSURE DEVICE AGAINST WESTERN EUROPE, AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO BEGIN PLANNING HOW TO COUNTERACT IT.

5. IN A BROADER VEIN, BRANDT EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE WAY THAT THE LAST DPC DISCUSSION EVOLVED. HE SAID THAT THE US BRIEFING AND HILL-NORTON'S PRESENTATION WERE CHILLING. THEY CLEARLY SHOWED THAT THE ALLIANCE FACED DANGERS OF AN ENTIRELY NEW ORDER OF GRAVITY. HOWEVER, THE ALLIES SEEMED TO BE IN NO MOOD TO FACE THE NEW REALITIES AND TO DEAL WITH THEM. BRANDT OBSERVED THAT ALL OF THE ALLIES, INCLUDING THE FRG, APPEARED TO CONCENTRATE FAR MORE ON THE BUDGET THAN ON THE THREAT. NONETHELESS, HE HOPED THAT THE ALLIANCE COULD

FURTHER STUDY THE THREAT IN ORDER TO EVALUATE MORE
CLEARLY WHAT COULD BE DONE.
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